

TRIBUTE!

THE YWCA SALUTES WOMEN

TRIBUTE AWARDS LUNCHEON
NOVEMBER 15, 1994
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

TRIBUTE 1994 PROGRAM

November 15, 1994
Noon—1:30 p.m.
Ambassador Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

WELCOME

Ingrid Scott-Weekley
1994 TRIBUTE Chairperson

INVOCATION

Marchiene Vroon-Rienstra

LUNCHEON

Mary Eileen Lyon
WZZM TV 13
Mistress of Ceremonies

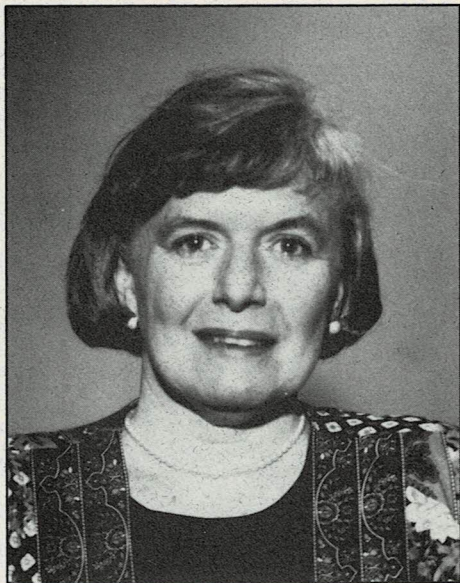
PRESENTATION OF TRIBUTE AWARDS

Mary McLoughlin, YWCA President
Susan Shannon, Executive Director

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Reverend Margaret J. Neill
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church
"The Challenge of Living in Community"

1994 TRIBUTE WINNER
ADVOCACY



MARY ALICE WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT
ADVISORY CENTER FOR TEENS

Mary Alice Williams's lifetime of advocacy springs from her passion for justice — social, economic, and racial. Her activism is a reflection of her fundamental belief in individuals' ability to solve their own problems and to determine their own futures.

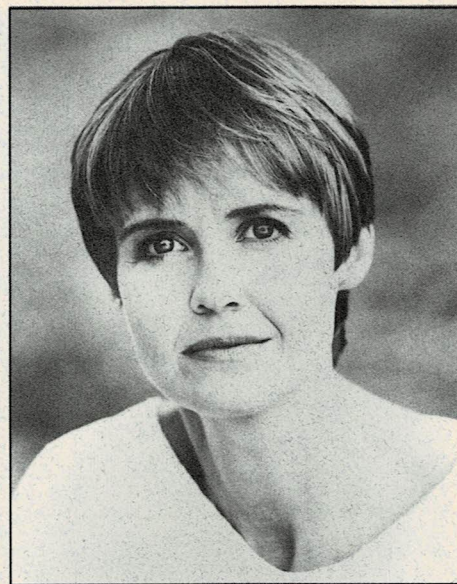
Working for both individual candidates and on community issues, Mary Alice has had a lasting impact on the community through her political activities. Her leadership has been recognized by the voters of Grand Rapids, as evidenced by her successful write-in campaign in the Grand Rapids City Commission primary.

Mary Alice served as director of the Aquinas College Women's Center, director of recipient rights for Kent County Mental Health, and as executive director of the Easttown Community Association. As the current president and CEO of the Advisory Center for Teens, she has pushed the agency to the forefront of services to troubled teens, expanding the agency's budget in the wake of government cutbacks.

Leadership Grand Rapids has benefited from Mary Alice's service as a board member, as have the Fair Housing Center of Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Public Education Fund, and the Nokomis Foundation Advisory Council. She is a founding board member for the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and for Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW). She is a past board member of the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan and the Planning Commission of the City of Grand Rapids.

In her vocation as well as her volunteer efforts, Mary Alice has consistently demonstrated her commitment to equality for all people.

1994 TRIBUTE WINNER
ARTS & COMMUNICATION



JEAN REED BAHLE
ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR
ACTORS' THEATRE

Actor, director, playwright, teacher — these are all roles executed beautifully through the artistry, intelligence, and sensitivity of Arts Winner Jean Reed Bahle.

As managing director of Actor's Theatre, Jean's commitment to expressing her convictions through her work has strengthened the theatre's minority voice. Jean writes and directs *The Environmental Tour* each spring. Her environmental plays are taught in a class sponsored by Grand Rapids Community College Center for Environmental Studies and Actors' Theatre, and Jean co-teaches the class and directs the students as they prepare to tour local elementary schools.

Jean received regional honors from the American Association of Community Theatres as "Best Director" for her work on the Actors' Theatre production of the play, *Top Girls*. Her wonderful biographical play, *Invisible Journey*, is based on the lives of four pioneering Grand Rapids women. The play, sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Library, the Art Museum, the Public Museum, and the Gerald R. Ford Museum, was presented during the Women's History Month *Legacy '94* celebration in March of this year.

According to nominator Fred Sebulske, "There is not a stronger voice than Jean's in area theatre. Her gentleness and her clarity of vision compel all who work with her to recognize her leadership."

1994 TRIBUTE WINNER
BUSINESS, MANAGEMENT & INDUSTRY



BETTY JARMAN
PARTNER
MANCHESTER INVESTMENT COMPANY

Betty Jarman was the one woman out of a team of developers who created and built Ramblewood Apartment Community. She started on the ground floor and worked in various capacities, such as advertising, rental manager, interior designer, and marketing director for the apartment complex, and later became a financial investor in the project.

Betty's first vision of a large, quality apartment complex with a community center was unconventional, but Betty and her partners were convinced that there was a market and a need for the type of housing represented by Ramblewood. The advertising concepts developed by Betty and her partners to promote the complex were truly innovative and are still used today.

Currently working as a partner in the Sunflower Apartment complex and several office complexes in the Greater Grand Rapids area, Betty is the negotiator in financing projects, leasing agreements, and she oversees the management of the original Ramblewood partners' investments and banking business.

Betty's successes in business came in the days of no strategic plans, no large advertising budgets, no marketing teams, and no blueprints to go by. But Betty helped create the blueprint, and in doing so, she used what daughter and nominator Lynne Jarman - Johnson describes as, "her business finesse, her feminine touch, her creative genius, and her commitment to family to create a blueprint that all women can work from."

1994 TRIBUTE WINNER
COMMUNITY SERVICE



VERNIS SCHAD
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

The Grand Rapids community has benefited in a myriad of ways from the dedicated involvement of Vernis Schad. Though her volunteer activities vary, Vernis has always chosen work that improves the quality of life in Grand Rapids and empowers its citizens.

Vernis served as a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education for 12 years, serving four of those years as president. During her service with the Board of Education, Vernis was a leading advocate of alternative programs, including the John Ball Zoo School and the Blandford Nature Center Environmental Program.

Her many other leadership positions have included: president of the Grand Rapids PTA Council, board member of the American Red Cross and the United Way. Vernis was one of the ten founding mothers of the Women's Resource Center, and she facilitated the 10th Anniversary Women's Hall of Fame Awards dinner in Grand Rapids in 1993.

Vernis currently serves as the president of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and as president of the World Affairs Council.

She is also a member of the steering committee for Strategic Planning for the Grand Rapids Public Schools and works with the Native American Tribal Council on strategic planning.

The American Association of University Women nominated Vernis, and the organization describes her as, "a true living example of AAUW's mission: promoting equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change."

1994 TRIBUTE WINNER
PROFESSIONS



VIRGINIA MORALEZ, R.N.
MANAGER
CLINICA SANTA MARIA
SAINT MARY'S HEALTH SERVICES

The daughter of migrant workers who settled in Grand Rapids, Virginia Morales is a voice for the Hispanic community. Her ability to break through cultural barriers on both sides of the poverty line has resulted in increased understanding of and service to Grand Rapids' Hispanic community.

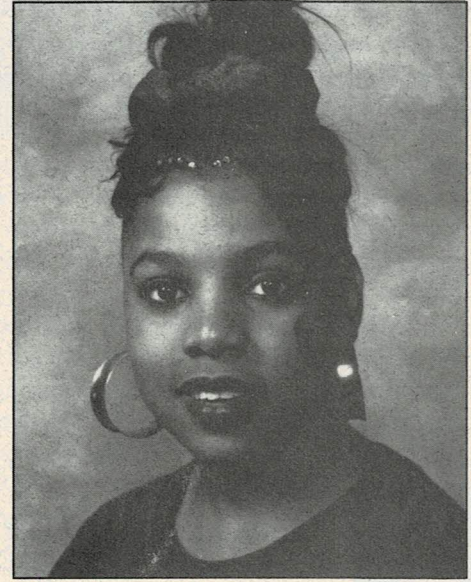
Virginia has been instrumental in the acceptance and growth of Clinica Santa Maria within the Hispanic community. She knew that in order to bring Grand Rapids' services to this diverse population she must first gain people's trust and confidence.

During her tenure as Clinica's manager, Virginia has tapped into a variety of health department programs. The infant mortality rate of Clinica's moms is one-half that of the county's average population. Hundreds of adults are now receiving care for diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. Virginia has been instrumental in increasing the client population from 200 to 1,000 patients per month.

In addition to her work with Clinica Santa Maria, Virginia has served on the March of Dimes Health Professional Advisory Board and the board of the Ronald McDonald House. She has worked with the Healthy Kent 2000 Project, the West Michigan Dental Society, and the Mexican Cultural Patriotic Committee.

Annita List of Catholic Social Services has this to say about Virginia: "Virginia has been a pillar of inspiration and mentorship not only for myself and others in our professional roles in dealing with the Hispanic population, but also to her staff, patients, family and friends."

1994 TRIBUTE WINNER
STUDENT



LA TOYA JOHNSON
OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

On the surface, La Toya Johnson might look like any other energetic 16 year-old high-schooler. She is an outstanding student, maintains a commendable grade point average, participates in a variety of educational and recreational extra-curricular activities, and holds down a part time job.

Look a little closer and you'll see a young woman in the foster care system who has bravely faced the obstacles in her life and consistently taken on challenges with striking motivation and energy.

Many children who enter the foster care system can be identified as having social, emotional, and physical needs that can often be provided for by a healthy foster family home. Because La Toya's needs were enormous, she drifted through many foster homes and could have easily given up and blamed the world for her circumstances. But La Toya simply refused to let that happen.

Overcoming abandonment and abuse, La Toya has demonstrated exceptional strength and determination in working to achieve her goals and in refusing to allow others to dictate and define her purpose in life.

La Toya is a wonderful role model for other young women, and it is the YWCA's great pleasure to honor her as the 1994 Student TRIBUTE winner.